

CouplesInBloom.com – **Concerting God**

October 2013

Evangelism is often dreaded for some very good reasons. Many (not the Bible) define evangelism in the same non-Biblical way *they* define Christianity: *non-relationally*. God already told us what His big question will be, what the right answer must be, and what happens if we choose the wrong one: “Depart from Me; I *never knew* you.” ⇨ Matthew 7:21-23. So why do ‘evangelism training materials’ primarily emphasize intellectualizing truths which can only be discerned after salvation? ⇨ 1 Corinthians 2:14. Reasons exist:

Those who will hear this *deadly quote* from Matthew include those who intellectualize Christianity, and those who hyper-spiritualize Christianity... both lack two-way intimacy with God. Owning a lifestyle of growing, robust exchange with the Holy Spirit does two things: 1) it reveals the evil foolishness of religiosity, and 2) it reveals the incomparable joy of real communication with the only God, who is love ⇨ 1 John 4:8, 16. These two revelations define Biblical evangelism! Stop, read, and think about this true example:

Recently we went for a walk in a beautiful land preserve; hills, valleys, fields, woods, a stream, a breeze, crops, fields, and wonderful views. In our second mile we met a young man walking his dog. He was a well-educated, soft-spoken, kind-hearted farmer of organic produce. Mutually interesting conversation eventually led to the source of all this beauty we were enjoying. His training had previously convinced him that it was created, but attributed the creation to the creation (sort of pantheistic), and not to any god or religion (even though he studied those in college and did read a Bible occasionally).

Our conversation got the Holy Spirit very excited, who prompted us to ask the young man to think about God relationally. Our conversation exposed the incompleteness of his pantheistic view and its (now) very obvious lack of the *relational nature* of creation. Once he realized the creator of relationship *must also be relational*, his eyes opened very wide and the Holy Spirit told me, “Got him!” The remaining time included encouraging him to talk to God- and read his Bible- relationally, and him encouraging us to visit him.

Compare and contrast this real experience to a hypothetical but frequently promoted Christian-eeze (post-salvation lingo-laden) evangelism lecture. We are 100% for correct theology and we study Scripture diligently; we are also 100% for relating to people where they are at because that is **what Jesus did** (speaking of theology!). Evangelism is about the lost, and is not about us trying to backwards-package our conversion experience down someone’s throat... which is actually like being a ‘Christian’ terrorist with a Bible-bomb.

Jesus did not force-feed *anybody*, and neither does the Holy Spirit. Instead, God wants us to offer salvation in a receivable way ⇨ 1 Corinthians 9:22. This is **concerting God**: *literally making a plan for God*. By listening to- and obeying- the Holy Spirit, God helps us **set Him up** to be received by those we witness to. If God did any more than that, He would destroy our relationship of partnering with Him! God is all, all about relationship!

This is good, and not difficult; marriage is the earthly picture of the same thing: we **set our spouse up** for blessings (*if* we have intimacy, that is). Instead of asking God for stuff all the time, try **concerting God**: **set God up**. He loves appointments we make for Him. ♥